

PRESS CONFERENCE

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs

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(Highlights Video Transcript)

Thank you very much for coming. With a certain degree of sadness I am preparing to leave this beautiful island. It's been a wonderful three days. Thank you Ambassador for your kindness, your leadership here, and thank you all Cypriots for the amazing hospitality I felt all during these days.

To go back to all of the efforts in the past to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus question, we've never been at a point like this where the Cypriot people themselves and their leadership have designed the ideas that are on the table without really any outside assistance or prodding. Of course all of us in the international community want to make sure that this special opportunity is not missed as the parties themselves develop these ideas on their own.

For the first time, also, we have two pro-solution leaders leading both their communities. We could never say that in the past. We have, therefore, the international community ready to do whatever the parties themselves would like. But these sorts of opportunities don't come all that often. Historically, there's a lot the international community can do to help the parties keep moving forward. Former Foreign Minister Mr. Downer was obviously doing a terrific job with Ambassador Zerihoun here on the island. So as a representative of the United States, all I can say is we are happy to do anything we can to support the United Nations in its efforts to help the parties keep moving forward, but ultimately, it's up to the people of Cyprus and their leadership to devise a solution that's just and lasting.